



THE



Counsellor

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April, 1961

RECORD BUDGET GETS ROYAL ASSENT MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE UP



HON. E.W. HINMAN Royal assent was given to Bill 10, "The Appropriation Act, 1961" on March 30, thereby authorizing the expenditure of certain sums which earlier had been approved in detail by the Legislature sitting as a Committee of Supply. This followed by 27 days the Budget Speech delivered by Hon. E.W. Hinman, Alberta's Provincial Treasurer, on March 3.

The Budget Speech is in fact a motion addressed to Mr. Speaker in which he is asked to leave his chair so that the Assembly "re-

solve itself into a Committee of Supply for consideration of sums to be granted to Her Majesty." Debate of the motion this year was concluded on March 17.

In his Budget Speech for 1961 Mr. Hinman anticipated a total revenue of \$323,405,795 (\$5,234,025 less than last year) and proposed expenditures reaching an all-time high total for Alberta of \$336,697,970 (\$8,062,837 more than 1960-61). A deficit of \$13,292,195 for the 1961-62 fiscal year will be financed out of Alberta's reserves.

Share of provincial funds this year going directly or indirectly to assist municipalities is estimated at \$135,869,500 with the corresponding total for 1960-61 given as \$132,914,100.

The following excerpts from Mr. Hinman's Budget Address outline subjects of special municipal interest:

* * *

NATIONAL OIL POLICY

At the end of 1960, the potential production of crude oil in Alberta under good production practices, was 894,000 barrels per day. Unfortunately actual production was considerably less than 50% (To Page 6)

TOWN OF THE MONTH

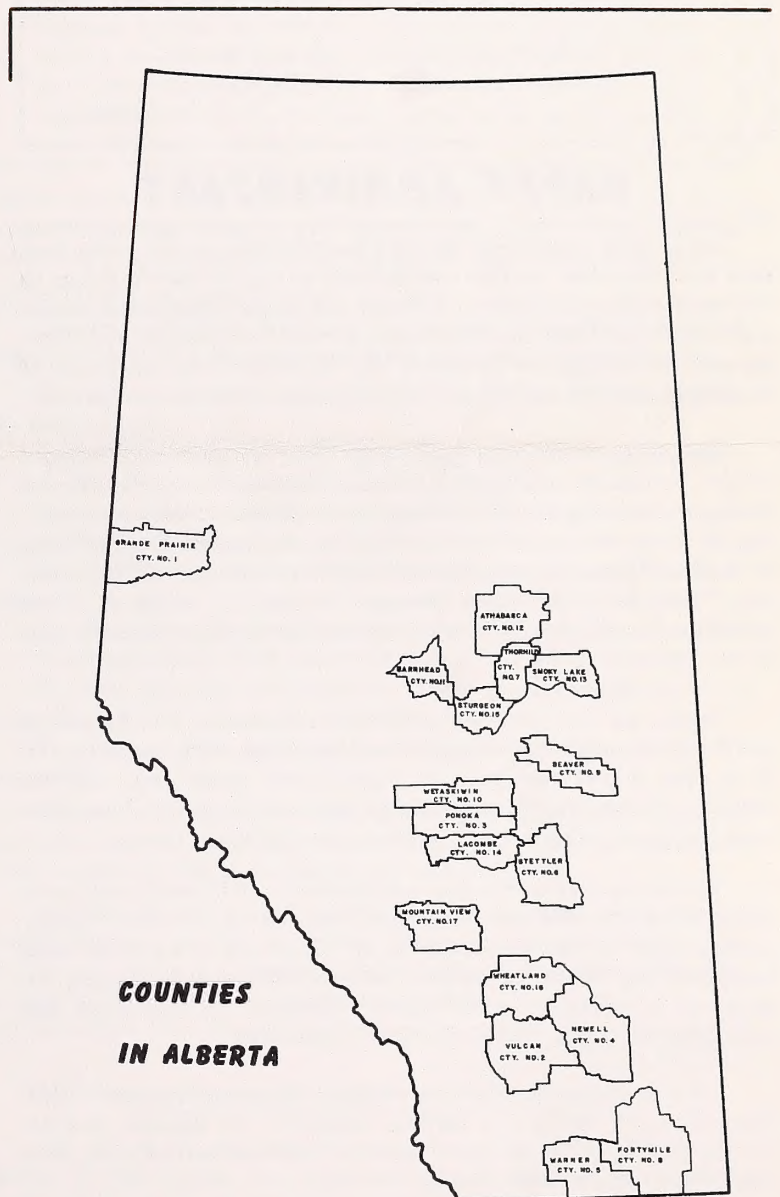


... Calgary is 88 miles northwest on the Trans-Canada Highway.

BASSANO

... HOW IT BEGAN

The Town of Bassano was named after the Marquis de Bassano, a Canadian Pacific Railway shareholder, who named the town after his birth place in Bassano, Italy. (To Page 8)



COUNTIES
IN ALBERTA

AFTER 10 YEARS - Five counties organized on January 1, 1961, brings to 17 those established in the Province during the past ten years. New counties are: Smoky Lake No. 13; Lacombe No. 14; Sturgeon No. 15; Wheatland No. 16 and Mountain View No. 17. (See Page 4)

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THE SECOND PAGE . . .

HE IS RISEN

In the end of the sabbath,
as it began to dawn
toward the first day of the week,
came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary
to see the sepulchre.

And, behold, there was a great earthquake:
for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven,
and came and rolled back the stone from the door,
and sat upon it.

His countenance was like lightning,
and his raiment white as snow:
and for fear of him the keepers did shake,
and became as dead men.

And the angel answered and said unto the women,
Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus,
which was crucified.

He is not here: for he is risen as he said.
Come, see the place where the Lord lay.
o St. Matthew

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Some forty years ago we used occasionally to drive the long bare miles between our town and Bassano to root for our confreres on the local high school team. Although we weren't interested in such statistics at the time, we have since learned that Bassano was incorporated as a village on December 28, 1909, and then hurried on to achieve town status on January 19, 1911, about thirteen months later.

Recently we visited Bassano again. The town is now fifty years of age and special celebrations have been planned to mark the record during the coming months. First of these already held was a testimonial dinner and presentation tendered by the Bassano Board of Trade to Wallace Flanagan, who served on the first town council fifty years ago. There are in fact three Flanagan brothers ... Wallace, Arthur and Alex ... all of whom have lived in Bassano since the early part of the century.

During our short visit we gathered the impression that Bassano is not the brash go-getting youngster we knew some forty years ago. In those days it was envisioned as a potentially great city. All the amenities it had (including provision for street cars) at a time when such things were rare enough in places several times larger.

But the big dam on the Bow was finished in 1913 and by the early twenties the workmen were long gone. And the influx of land-hungry farmers eager to take advantage of soil which was or could be made independent of rainfall never materialized. Whatever the reason, the dream of a metropolis with crowded avenues, bustling shops and buildings tall in the prairie sky didn't come true.

But a town is more than these things. It's something indefinable like a flavor or an air or a feeling. Basically, it's people. And the people of Bassano have never been so much concerned with what might have been as with what is.

The present population of Bassano is about 800. Like the Flanagan brothers, some of the people living there today helped to build the town. Literally, with brick and mortar, hammer and saw. Less literally, perhaps, with ideas and optimism and leadership. Such a record speaks well both for the town as a good place to live, and for the calibre and wearing qualities of said citizens.

There's a big sign on the highway where it passes the town. Among other things it modestly proclaims that Bassano is "Best in the West by a Damsite". That's a good slogan ... particularly since it seems to typify so well the spirit prevailing in those parts all through the years. We hope the people who made the town and serve the town and are the Town of Bassano never change their minds about it.

In this year of their Golden Jubilee, we can think of no reason why they should.

Excerpts from
The SOCIAL CHALLENGE of OLD AGE

Everyone of us desires to live long, yet not to be old.
* * * * *
The old are sometimes tolerated, but too seldom valued. They are pushed off the bustling main road, and find few side roads provided for their happiness.

* * * * *
For their own good, as well as for the happiness of those who are now aged, young people should start learning how to grow old. There is no season of life for which preparation is more necessary. There is no preparation that can be more rewarding.

* * * * *
One thing remains irrevocably fixed: our allotment of time at 65 is just what it was at 15 - twenty-four hours a day. It behooves us to use every twenty-four hours with the wisdom we have picked up along the way.

* * * * *
Youth is a heap of beginnings; age a handful of achievements; but age gives us no time to dote or dream. Life is still an adventure, a fine show. The trick is to look at it and play in it at the same time.

* * * * *
If there is one quality more than another that marks maturity, it is the quality of awareness. You will, when you are on the lookout for it, sense the moment when your advice and counsel would be fitting and useful; you will be aware, too, of the times when the weight of your years' experience would be a strain on good relations.

* * * * *
The wisest investment of time lies in creative activities. Hobbies can be boring, transient, things if they do not involve imagination and doing. To design and build a doll house for a granddaughter out of an orange crate; to make a railway system for a grandson out of wire soldered on ties cut with a penknife; to write the story of your life as an inspiration to your children and their children; to prepare an anthology of the great thoughts that you have come upon; to teach Boy Scouts or Girl Guides what they need to know in order to earn a proficiency badge in your profession or trade: these, and hundreds of other activities such as church work, community service, coaching in drama or art, managing a team of boys or girls in a sport you know and like—all these hold out promise of full and happy years.
o Royal Bank of Canada Monthly Letter



SECRETARY'S
CALENDAR

Every Month Municipal District Act
5th-Within 5 days after the end of each month secretary-treasurer shall prepare statement of moneys received and their disposition, submit to council at next meeting and enter a copy in the minutes. Sec. 61(1) (v).

Secretary-treasurer shall prepare a statement of Provincial Grants and mail them with tax notices. Sec. 347a.
Town and Village Act

Every Month
15th-Secretary-treasurer shall prepare statement of moneys received and their disposition, submit to council at next meeting and enter in minutes. Sec. 67(r).

May 1 - Secretary-treasurer shall prepare tax roll on or before September 1 and mail tax notices. Sec. 368, 370.

April 1 - Not later than April 1 in each year the council shall appoint an auditor. Sec. 73(1).

Secretary-treasurer shall prepare a statement of Provincial Grants and mail them with tax notices. Sec. 370a.

Assessment Act
May 31 - Duties of the Court of Revision must be completed by this date. Sec. 43.

The Alberta Municipal Councillor
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. . . IN CANADA, THERE ARE ABOUT 40 SUCH PLANS

COUNCIL-MANAGER ADMINISTRATION

BY A. L. H. SOMERVILLE,
CITY MANAGER, LETHBRIDGE

There are several centres in the Province of Alberta where executive and administrative duties of the council have been delegated, in a greater or lesser degree, to an official called the town (or city) manager. This official is of course subject to the legislative jurisdiction of the council and exercises such powers and duties as are set out in The City Act or The Town and Village Act or which may be delegated to him by the council.

This form of government is usually referred to as the Council-Manager Plan. It is not a new plan. From data at hand, it was first adopted by one or two places in both Canada and the United States in 1913. It was first adopted in Lethbridge in 1928.

Cities and towns having this plan vary in population from 200 to 480,000 . . . with more being in the lower numbers, say, 40,000 and less.

The population of Lethbridge is some 34,000. Since 1928 when the Council-Manager Plan was first adopted by this City, there have been two City Managers: J.T. Watson until 1949, and myself since then.

ABOUT FORTY IN CANADA

The Council-Manager Plan has been adopted in the U.S.A. by possibly 7,000 governing bodies while in Canada, there are about 40 such plans.

The principal reason that the plan has been adopted in most cases is to resolve conflicts between democracy and efficiency. Democracy is preserved by the popular election of mayors and council members and efficiency is achieved by the employment of a professionally-trained or experienced Manager technically to administer the city or town business.

In operation, Council determines policy, establishes by-laws and retains control of expenditures. The Council is the governing body. The Manager carries out these policies.

There is a parallel between a city or town and a business corporation. In the first place, they are both usually big and important business. Secondly, the government of a corporation usually consists of the Manager, Directors, and the stockholders; whereas the Council-Manager Plan consists of the Manager, Council and the citizens.

As has been said, the exercise of administrative authority is

CITY ADMINISTRATION IN ALBERTA

Calgary:	Mayor and 12 aldermen Three appointed City Commissioner
Camrose:	Mayor and 8 aldermen
Drumheller:	Mayor and 6 aldermen City Manager
Edmonton:	Mayor and 10 aldermen Two appointed City Commissioners
Grande Prairie:	Mayor and 8 aldermen City Manager
Lethbridge:	Mayor and 6 aldermen City Manager
Medicine Hat:	Mayor and 8 aldermen
Red Deer:	Mayor and 6 aldermen One appointed Commissioner
Wetaskiwin:	Mayor and 6 aldermen City Superintendent

(Note: Section 48 of The City Act provides that "The mayor is ex officio a commissioner in addition to those appointed by the council.")

A.L.H. Somerville, City Manager for Lethbridge, has had a distinguished career chiefly in western Canada. Graduating from the University of British Columbia with a B.A.Sc. degree in 1923, he spent four years as an engineer on design of the \$9,000,000 Pier B-C in Vancouver. This was followed by a term as Field Engineer for the C.D. Howe and Company on terminal grain elevator construction.



For 3 years Mr. Somerville was Group Engineer with the Department of National Defence on road and airport construction, and for 12 years served as District Army Engineer for the Department of Transport on construction of airports in Alberta and the Northwest Territories. Joining the City of Lethbridge staff in 1948 he was one year in the post of Assistant City Manager, after which he succeeded J.T. Watson in his present position.

vested in the Manager but he is accountable to Council. He is required to provide Council with information which enables them to set policy. He can advise on policy matters if so required to do.

AUTHORITIES of a MANAGER

Several authorities have set out in some detail the duties and responsibilities of a Manager and these generally are as follows:

To see that all by-laws, regulations and Council's instructions are carried out.

To exercise control over all departments and units of government.

To appoint, supervise and remove employees.

To make recommendations to Council on City affairs as may seem desirable or necessary.

To keep Council advised of the financial condition and its future needs.

To prepare and submit to Council for approval, the annual budget.

To prepare and submit reports to Council as required.

To keep the public informed on City matters through reports to Council.

To carry out other duties as may be required from time to time by Council.

Council thus has in its Manager a continuing single referral authority for all its business. There is also a continuing authority to inter-relate all City departments and activities.

Whether or not a civic government should adopt the Council-Manager form is a matter of choice. Each government has its own way of life and ideas. Any decision on this subject should be made after a study of their problems and the results they wish to obtain.

. . . FROM THE CITY ACT

CITY COMMISSIONERS or CITY MANAGER

43. In any city the council may by by-law, which shall be submitted to the electors and approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon, provide that the council may delegate any or all of its executive and administrative duties and powers to one or more city commissioners or a city manager.

44. The city commissioners or the city manager, as the case may be, is subject to the legislative jurisdiction of the council and shall exercise the powers and duties set out in this Act and such other powers and duties as may from time to time be vested, conferred or delegated by by-law or resolution of the council.

45. A city that has city commissioners or a city manager, either by the provisions of a by-law passed under section 43, or by the provisions of its charter in force immediately prior to the passing of this Act, shall continue to have city commissioners or a city manager, as the case may be, until otherwise provided by a by-law which shall be submitted to the electors for the assent of a majority of the electors voting thereon.

... A NEWSMAN LOOKS AT

ALBERTA'S COUNTY SYSTEM

BY KEN MASON

EDMONTON JOURNAL

The population living under Alberta's county system of local government increased to more than 121,000 January 1, when five more counties came into being.

Government orders-in-council were passed to create the new counties of Smoky Lake, Lacombe, Sturgeon, Wheatland (east of Calgary) and Mountain View (in the Olds district). They brought the number of counties in Alberta to 17.

Last fall voters in Smoky Lake and Lacombe elected county councils to take over at the start of the new year. In the other three new counties, provincial government administrators were appointed until county councils were elected. Nomination day in all three was January 21, and elections were held February 18.

It was 10 years ago that the provincial government brought in the county system on an experimental basis. The County Act introduced during the 1950 session of the Legislature paved the way for this form of municipal government which, officials say, is unlike any other county system.

SINGLE COUNCIL

Under the Alberta system, both school and municipal business are administered by a single elected council. In a county the school division board ceases to exist, its duties taken over by a committee of the county council.

This was a radical departure for Alberta where, traditionally, schools had been administered by elected boards which had the power to requisition municipal councils for the money they needed to finance school operations.

Introduction of The County Act was met with opposition from many sides, but particularly from school trustees and teachers who said that education would suffer under a system in which schools had to compete with other municipal services for a share of the community's tax dollar.

Today, while the opposition hasn't disappeared, it is no longer so vociferous and officials say those who live under the county system appear to favor it.

SET UP ON REQUEST

Under The County Act, a county can be set up by government order-in-council when a request is received by resolution from either the school division board or the municipal district council in an area.

In practice, say officials of the Department of Municipal Affairs, it hasn't worked this way. In the cases of the first 12 counties formed, the government received joint resolutions passed by school boards and municipal district councils.

Exceptions were two of the latest county applications. In Smoky Lake and Lacombe the municipal district councils were in favor of asking for county status, while the school trustees were strongly opposed.

A government spokesman said the Province decided to set up counties anyway, because there was evidence the majority of ratepayers approved. In both cases, ratepayers at their annual meetings voted in favor of the county system. As the spokesman pointed out, the municipal district ratepayers and the school division ratepayers are the same.

Counties are governed by councils consisting of anywhere from five to 11 members, who elect a chairman from among their number. The average size of Alberta county councils is seven members.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The county council forms a school committee, which may consist of the whole council or a part of it.

In addition, towns and villages within the county elect representatives to sit on the school committee. This provision is in the Act because schools in the towns and villages usually are part of the school division.

The communities elect a maximum of three school committee representatives per year. This means that if there are more than three towns and villages, they must take turns electing representatives.

(An exception to the maximum rule is the County of Ponoka. Here the Town of Ponoka, because of its size, sends two representatives to the county school committee. Other communities elect two representatives, for a total of four).

In the case of a separate school district within a county, separate school supporters continue to elect their trustees, who in turn continue to operate the separate school system. In effect, the separate schools are not part of the county.

ENCOURAGES PLAN

The provincial government openly encourages municipalities to consider adopting the county system.

In a brochure prepared for municipal councillors, Municipal Affairs Minister A.J. Hooke says:

"The chief characteristic of the county system is that it combines all local governments ... into a single authority for all local purposes. Early critics feared that this meant abolition of local authority over school or municipal matters according to their point of view, but years of experience have disproved the claim. Lessening of local authority is not involved, but rather the bringing together into a single council those separate bodies which at times may be working at cross purposes."

PLEBISCITES HELD

When The County Act was first passed, it called for a mandatory plebiscite after four years of county operation, to give ratepayers the opportunity to decide whether they preferred to continue under the county system or revert back to a municipal district and school board system.

The first two counties—Grande Prairie in the north and Vulcan in the south—came into being on January 1, 1951. These were followed by Ponoka in 1952, Newell in 1953, Warner in 1954, Stettler and Thorhild in 1955, Forty Mile, Beaver and Wetaskiwin in 1957, Barrhead and Athabasca in 1959.

Four years after their formation, Grande Prairie and Vulcan counties held plebiscites. In Grande Prairie ratepayers voted 69 per cent in favor of retaining the county system, and in Vulcan the vote was 62 per cent in favor.

Subsequently votes were 65 per cent favorable in Ponoka, 83 per cent in Newell and 79 per cent in Warner.

NO MANDATORY VOTE

In 1958 the government introduced a bill to abolish the mandatory vote. Instead, it made provision for a vote after four years if such a vote were demanded through a petition signed by at least 10 per cent of the ratepayers.

Only one county has held a plebiscite since that time. In 1959 in Thorhild county the four-year deadline coincided with a local dispute over school centralization, and ratepayers signed a petition asking for a plebiscite. The vote was 86 per cent in favor of retaining the county system. Angus W. Morrison, Alberta's Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs, thinks figures such as these are proof that the county system of local government has gained acceptance.

Under the non-county system, a municipal district council administers municipal matters, while schools are administered by an elected school division board. Under this system, the school board requisitions its money from the municipal district council, and the council cannot interfere with the requisition.

31 DISTRICTS

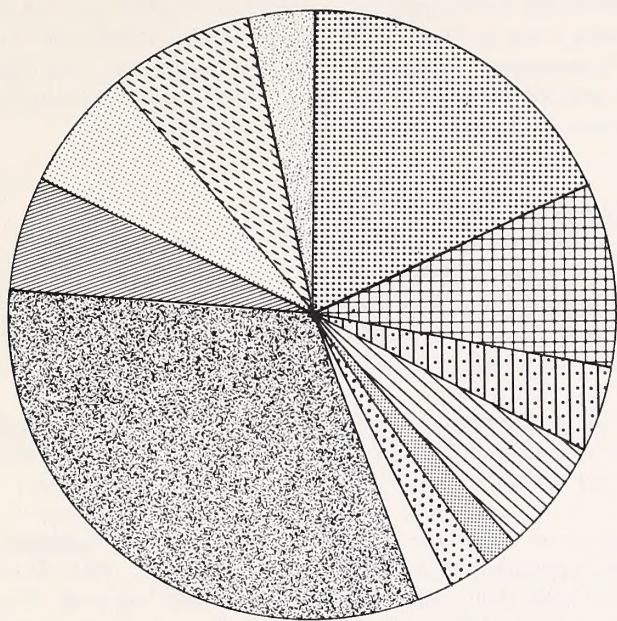
The population living in counties represents around one-third of the Province's rural population. When five new counties were added at the first of the year, it left 31 municipal districts still in existence with more than 200,000 residents.

When The County Act was first passed, there was a time lapse between changes of status during which government administrators had to take over the affairs of the areas. For example, counties came into being on January 1 and municipal district councils and school boards were automatically out of office. Government administrators filled the breach until elections were held several weeks later.

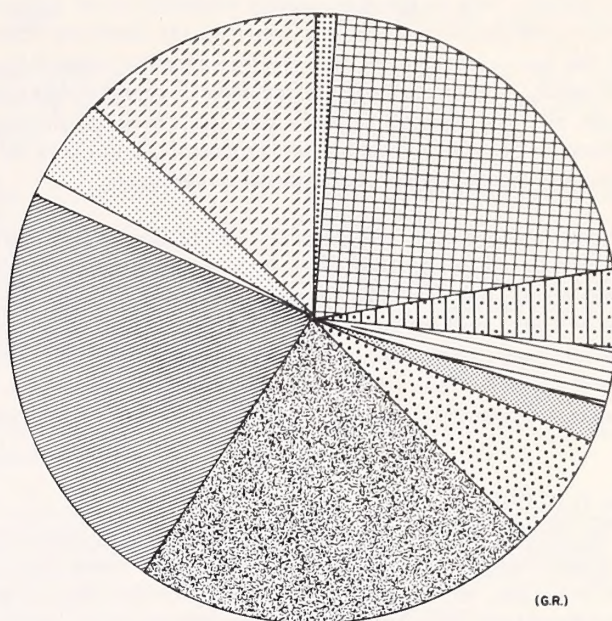
An amendment passed in 1958 permits advance election of county councils, so they can be ready to take over as soon as county status is established. Two of the new counties elected their councils last fall. The other three didn't begin organizing in time to meet advertising requirements.

Another recent change in the Act permits town and village representatives to be elected chairmen of county and school committees. Under the Act, the school committee is made up of county councillors plus representatives of towns and villages which pay taxes to the school division. Until the amendment was made, these representatives could not head the school committees.

o Reprinted from The Edmonton Journal

MONEY FROM THESE SOURCES SPENT FOR THESE PURPOSES**ESTIMATED REVENUES**

TAX SHARING & SUBSIDIES -	\$ 61,158,000 - 18.16 %	
FUEL OIL TAX -	\$ 34,320,000 - 10.19 %	
AUTO LICENSES -	\$ 14,046,000 - 4.17 %	
A.L.C.B. PROFITS -	\$ 21,000,000 - 6.24 %	
LEGAL FEES & FINES -	\$ 5,048,900 - 1.50 %	
LANDS & FORESTS -	\$ 7,529,850 - 2.24 %	
MINES & MINERALS -	\$ 107,497,000 - 31.93 %	
HOSPITALIZATION (MUN) -	\$ 7,142,000 - 2.12 %	
HOSPITALIZATION (FED) -	\$ 20,500,000 - 6.09 %	
TREASURY EARNINGS -	\$ 19,298,200 - 5.73 %	
OTHERS -	\$ 25,865,845 - 7.68 %	
REVENUE -	\$323,405,795 - 96.05 %	
FROM RESERVES -	\$ 13,292,175 - 3.95 %	
TOTAL -	\$336,697,970 - 100 %	

**ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES**

PUBLIC DEBT -	\$ 2,659,590 - .79 %	
* HIGHWAYS -	\$ 70,651,635 - 20.98 %	
PUBLIC WORKS	\$ 13,871,220 - 4.12 %	
* LANDS & FORESTS	\$ 10,073,900 - 2.99 %	
* AGRICULTURE	\$ 6,962,880 - 2.07 %	
* PUBLIC WELFARE	\$ 21,121,700 - 6.27 %	
* PUBLIC HEALTH	\$ 72,872,800 - 21.64 %	
* EDUCATION -	\$ 74,969,870 - 22.27 %	
STATUTORY PAY'TS	\$ 3,200,000 - .95 %	
MUNICIPALITIES ASSISTANCE GRANT	\$15,000,000 - 4.46 %	
OTHERS -	\$ 45,314,375 - 13.46 %	
TOTAL -	\$336,697,970 - 100 %	

*INCLUDES EXPENDITURES FOR CONSTRUCTION-P.W.VOTE.

PROVINCIAL ASSISTANCE TO MUNICIPALITIES

TWELVE YEARS

APRIL 1, 1950, TO MARCH 31, 1962

	Total for 9 Years Apr. 1/50 to Mar. 31/59 Actual	1959-60 Actual	1960-61 Estimated	1961-62 Estimated	Total 12 Years
Direct Financial Assistance					
1. Education:					
Operational Grants to Schools	\$168,885,017	\$ 40,647,528	\$ 46,000,000	\$ 49,000,000	\$304,532,545
Construction Grants to Schools	53,548,875	12,117,355	10,700,000	7,000,000	83,366,230
Grants to Teachers' Retirement Fund	4,410,030	-----	-----	-----	4,410,030
2. Public Health:					
Hospital Construction Grants	4,673,414	616,469	1,326,100	1,250,000	7,865,983
Health Service Grants	1,674,934	486,963	950,000	815,000	3,926,897
3. Highways:					
Grants for roads, bridges and other structures	75,830,462	14,013,612	18,550,000	19,200,000	127,594,074
4. Treasury:					
Grants in lieu of taxes	946,188	-----	-----	2,800,000	3,746,188
Municipal Assistance Grants	71,451,166	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	116,451,166
Grants for Police Stations	-----	-----	-----	745,600	745,600
5. Attorney General's Department:					
Remission of Fines collected under The Alberta Liquor Act	1,113,689	168,611	160,000	170,000	1,612,300
6. Public Welfare:					
Indigent Relief	11,181,566	1,778,478	2,370,600	1,245,500	16,576,144
7. Lands & Forests Department:					
Refunds of cultivation and grazing leases	8,023,514	236,538	230,000	250,000	3,740,052
8. Provincial Secretary:					
Recreational Grants	-----	-----	2,300,000	1,500,000	3,800,000
TOTAL: Direct Financial Assistance ..	\$396,738,855	\$ 85,065,554	\$ 97,586,700	\$ 98,976,100	\$678,367,209
Indirect Financial Assistance:					
General Hospitalization for all residents and medical services for Pensioners, Polio, Cancer, etc.	\$113,085,580	\$ 28,945,294	\$ 35,327,400	\$ 36,893,400	\$214,251,674
TOTAL: Direct and Indirect Financial Assistance	\$509,824,435	\$114,010,848	\$132,914,100	\$135,869,500	\$892,618,883
Assistance by Loans:					
1. Self Liquidating Projects Act	\$ 21,994,279	-----	-----	-----	\$ 21,994,279
2. Municipal Capital Expenditure Loans Act	125,000,000	-----	-----	-----	125,000,000
3. Other Municipal Loans	58,086,369	\$ 5,684,294	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 3,700,000	68,770,663
4. School Construction Loans	78,422,373	2,651,490	1,200,000	1,200,000	83,473,863
TOTAL: Assistance by Loans	\$283,503,021	\$ 8,335,784	\$ 3,700,000	\$ 3,700,000	\$299,238,805

BUDGET SPEECH 1961

(From Page 1)

of this amount, due to the over-supply situation in oil market areas, and this condition is expected to continue for sometime. Canada is one of the few countries with enough oil production potential to supply its own needs, which yet remains an importer of considerable quantities of crude oil. The Federal cabinet and the National Energy Board have been studying this problem, and as a result, a national oil policy was recently announced by the Federal government.

Briefly, this policy consists of the establishment of target levels for Canadian oil production. The average production in 1960 was 550,000 barrels per day. The targets set are 625,000 per day by the middle of 1961, and not less than an average of 640,000 barrels per day for the year, with production increasing to 800,000 barrels per day by the end of 1963. Failure to achieve these targets on a voluntary basis will result in Federal regulation of crude oil imports.

* * * *

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

The year 1960 is the fourteenth year of orderly development of rural electrification in Alberta. There are now more than 52,000 farms electrified, an increase of some 3,200 for the year. It may now be considered that 76% of the farms in the Province have been electrified, with power available virtually to all farming areas. Direct loans exceeding \$32,000,000 have been made for this purpose, and additional loans of some \$7,000,000 have been guaranteed by the Province. Repayment of these loans has been satisfactory, the amount now outstanding being approximately \$20,000,000.

* * * *

MUNICIPAL WINTER WORKS INCENTIVE PROGRAM

A greater number of municipalities are currently undertaking projects than in the previous year. This increased participation can be attributed to the widening of the type of projects which may be undertaken, and to the availability of Provincial Government grants for roads, sidewalks and recreational facilities. After projecting the program to its closing date, April 30, 1961, it is estimated that there will be 625 projects with a total cost of \$16,500,000. Of this sum, the Federal and Provincial Governments will contribute \$4,225,000, being 75% of the labor costs; with the remainder being financed by Provincial grants and municipal reserves and loans.

* * * *

DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

There are increasing indications that our people are becoming concerned over the rising cost of education. We must have schools adequately equipped and teachers properly qualified, and to provide these for a growing population, large sums of money are required. The government has been studying this situation, and during the course of this Session, there will be further opportunity to discuss the proposals to equalize mill rates for educational purposes and to provide grants adequate to supplement the costs of a basic educational program throughout the Province.

We expect to spend \$69,891,370 for the Department of Education, which is \$1,903,484 more than the amount voted last year, and represents 22.6% of our revenue on income account. Operational grants to schools will be \$3,000,000 higher for a total of \$49,000,000, while construction grants are expected to be lower at \$7,000,000. The rate of school building appears to have passed its peak, at least for the time being. It may be of interest to note that statistics at June 30, 1960 show that there were 277,920 pupils, 11,789 teachers, and that the cost per pupil was \$352.00 with a total operating cost of \$103,000,000.

* * * *

ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING

The government has given its approval to the establishment of an electronic system of recording and accounting. To this end a data

WHERE ELSE?

In what other province can you find reserves to make possible and easily endurable the adjustments which must be made? In what other part of Canada are revenues for provincial purposes so little dependent on taxes? Where else have the resources of the people been husbanded and developed to assure an economic base so little vulnerable to the ups and downs of economic cycles? Where in our Nation have understanding and co-operation between the Province and the municipalities been so sincerely nurtured to facilitate a unified approach to such problems as those we now face?

o Mr. Hinman's Budget Address

processing centre has been set up, the members of which are intensively studying the system to facilitate the transfer of present methods to the electronic machines. This transfer will be effected on April 1, 1962, and we are confident that our accounting procedures will be greatly improved at less cost. A sum of \$373,480 has been appropriated to provide for staff, equipment, rentals and other expenses to get this centre into operation for the 1962-63 fiscal year.

* * * *

DEPARTMENT of MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

The main item of revenue is \$7,142,000, being the amount estimated to be received from municipalities as their share of the Province's hospitalization plan. The municipalities will levy a tax at the rate of 4 mills on an equalized assessment basis on all property and remit the proceeds to the Department of Municipal Affairs.

The Department will continue its policy of instituting a uniform assessment basis for all property in the Province, and of assisting local governing authorities with their assessment and planning.

To carry on the Municipal Winter Works Incentive Program for next year, provision has been made for \$2,500,000 which is an increase of \$1,000,000 over the amount provided last year. Of this amount, the Federal Government will reimburse us to the extent of \$1,700,000.

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PROVINCIAL SECRETARY

Substantially higher receipts are expected from collections under The Fuel Oil Tax Act, embodying a 2¢ per gallon increase in the tax ... In the Province's five-year program, the Provincial Secretary is administering the payment of recreational grants to municipalities. We expect that such grants will total \$1,500,000 next year.

The Cultural Branch will continue its program of providing assistance to libraries, community endeavors and other cultural activities. The sum of \$394,610 has been provided for this purpose.

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PUBLIC DEBT

The public debt has been reduced to \$25,593,583 as at December 31, 1960 ... Total guaranteed debt of the Province amounted to \$219,360,841.

At March 31, 1960, our investments amounted to \$437,908,030, consisting of \$309,756,172 invested in debentures of our municipalities, school boards, hospital boards, rural electrification associations and Alberta Government Telephones; and \$128,151,858 in cash and debentures of the Federal and Provincial Governments.

* * * *

DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC HEALTH

The cost of providing a comprehensive health program increases as our population grows and the need to expand services arises. The total cost of the Department of Health is estimated to be \$69,002,300 which is 22.3% of our total revenue on income account.

The amount required for the Alberta Hospitalization Plan is \$50,858,800 which is \$5,495,300 more than the amount provided last year. The increase is due not only to rising costs and a larger number of patients, but also to a steady increase in the services rendered. The Federal Government's share of the Plan is estimated to be \$20,500,000, and as mentioned earlier the Department of Municipal Affairs will collect an estimated \$7,142,000 from the municipalities. The net cost of the Provincial Government will be \$23,216,800.

* * * *

DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WELFARE

The department is working towards a new concept of welfare, which is the granting of social allowances based on individual need. The present programs of public assistance, mothers' allowances, widows' pensions, disabled persons' pensions and supplementary allowances will be merged into a social allowance plan with individual need determining the amount of the allowance. To accomplish this, twenty or more regional offices have been or will be established throughout the Province in order that local cases can receive personal attention.

* * * *

Thirty-one homes for the aged have been completed and are in operation. A great deal of interest in these homes has been indicated from welfare agencies across the continent. The Public Works Department will commence construction on the two large projects in Edmonton and Calgary, and additional homes will be built in other centres as the need becomes apparent. The hostel in Edmonton will be completed next year, and alterations are planned for the Ogden Hostel in Calgary.

(To Page 7)

DATES TO REMEMBER

	<u>Cities</u>	<u>Towns and Villages</u>	<u>Counties and Municipal Districts</u>
Date of Posting Notice for Annual Meeting:	Not required	At least six days prior to the second Monday in February. Section 125(2)	At least seven clear days before Nomination Day. Section 97.
Annual Meeting:	Not required	Second Monday in February. Section 125(1)	Third Saturday in February. Section 96(6)
Date of Posting Notice of Nomination Meeting:	At least six clear days previous to fourth Wednesday in September. Section 124	At least six days prior to the fourth Wednesday in September. Section 129(2)	At least seven clear days before Nomination Day. Section 97.
Nomination Meeting:	Fourth Wednesday in September. Section 123	Fourth Wednesday in September. Section 129(1)	Third Saturday in February. Section 96.
Date of Posting Election Notices:	Without reasonable delay 24 hours after Nomination Day. Section 133.	After 24 hour period and without further unreasonable delay after Nomination Meeting. Section 137.	After the expiry of forty-eight hours from close of nominations and within two weeks therefrom. Section 122
Election:	Third Wednesday following Nomination Day. Section 129	Same day of week as Nomination Day but in the third following week. Section 134(2)	Fourth Saturday following day of Nomination. Section 121
First Meeting:	Fourth Monday following Nomination Day. Section 27	Fifth Monday following Nomination Day. Section 46(1)	April 3rd. Section 39
Audit Completed:	On or before April 1st. Section 73(1)	On or before February 1st. Section 76(1) Auditor to forward one copy final audit to Minister.	On or before February 1st. Section 68. Auditor to forward one copy to Minister.
Circulation of Auditor's Report:	On or before June 1st, in newspaper or pamphlet form, etc. Section 73(3)	Second Monday in February. Can print in newspaper or publish synopsis. Section 76(5)	On or before February 10th copy mailed to every person whose name is on the assessment roll. Section 68(6)

BUDGET SPEECH 1961

(From Page 6)

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT

We shall continue to distribute an amount of \$15,000,000 amongst our municipalities as unconditional grants, and this amount is included in the estimated expenditure on income account.

* * * *

In capital expenditures, we have estimated payments of \$4,010,000 to be made next year to Calgary Power Limited to reimburse them for construction costs of the initial storage development at the Brazeau Storage and Power Development. In the current year, payments of approximately \$6,000,000 will be made, but the total of all payments on this project shall not exceed \$14,546,000. This sum is repayable by Calgary Power Limited to the Government, on or before October 1, 1980.

In addition, certain statutory loans will be made next year. Loans under The Farm Purchase Credit Act have become very popular with 463 applications approved in 1960 granting loans totalling \$2,512,600. We anticipate this trend to continue and expect to make loans of at least \$2,000,000 in 1961. Rural electrification loans are still in demand, and it is estimated that \$500,000 will be required for this purpose to supplement the revolving principal of the fund. Loans will also be made for Rural Telephone Associations and for Homestead leases.

* * * *

MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE

Much is being said these days about the critical financial condition of municipalities and the need for further assistance from the Provincial government. With the rising cost of education and other services, it would be idle to deny that local governing bodies are hard pressed to meet their commitments. This government has recognized the situation and the assistance given has been progressively higher year after year. The total direct assistance in major grants of all kinds will amount to \$98,976,100 for the coming year, and indirect assistance will be \$36,893,400. Since 1950 we will have provided nearly \$900,000,000 towards relieving the burden on local taxpayers.

In addition to this assistance, the Province has made available, through its own resources and through the Alberta Municipal Financing Corporation, capital funds required for municipal purposes, schools and hospitals. The interest rate is governed by the cost of provincial borrowing, thus affording considerable savings to our municipalities, and furthermore capital funds have been made available where otherwise they would have been practically impossible to obtain.

The Alberta Municipal Financing Corporation has sold debentures totalling \$158,200,000 at December 31, 1960, and has \$143,370,724, in outstanding loans to municipalities, school boards and hospital boards.

* * * *

Here we are in prosperous, progressive, hospitable, humanitarian Alberta taking into our revenue some \$9,879,900 of reserves in the form of repayment of loans we have made and still planning a deficit of more than \$13,000,000. What next? Are we to bury our heads in the sand and ignore the signs of the times? Are we to believe those who preach naively that we can have more services and less taxes? Are we to use up our reserves in a few short years thinking wishfully that all will change for the better before our reserves are gone? Or are we to plan for the worst, to cut back services, to reduce government staff to the bare minimum, to discontinue our capital programs and cut maintenance to the limit? Is it time to implement new taxes and impose charges for services for which we have never charged? Is socialization of our industries a way out of our tax problems?

The Government has considered all these alternatives and has decided on a policy of retrenchment which can be accomplished without any drastic reduction in service, without lowering the levels of assistance to municipalities, without the imposition of new taxes for provincial purposes and without such a call on our reserves as might lead us to the necessity of imposing some economy shattering new taxes at a later date.

* * * *

It is with pride and confidence that this budget is presented for the consideration and approval of this Assembly.

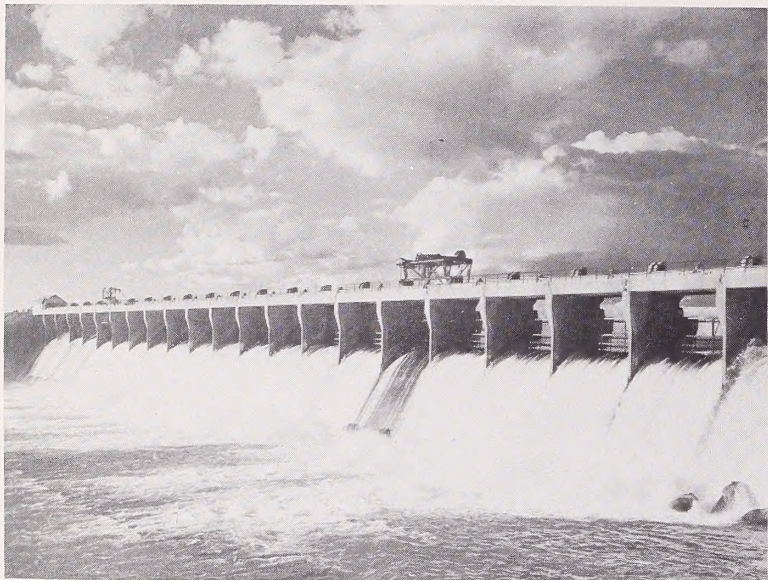
Mr. Speaker, I move that you do now leave the Chair and that this Assembly resolve itself into a Committee of Supply for the consideration of sums to be granted to Her Majesty.

BASSANO . . . TOWN OF THE MONTH
(From Page 1)

The C. P. R. completed laying the steel for the main line railway to Bassano in 1884. In 1909 the firm commenced drilling for oil and gas and were successful in finding a large quantity of gas in 1911. That same year the C. P. R. commenced construction of a large irrigation dam on the Bow River three miles south of Bassano, which was completed in 1913 at a cost of \$1,700,000. The completed dam consisted of 720 feet of concrete construction and 7,180 feet of concrete faced earth fill. The water storage capacity of the dam is intended to irrigate 281,000 acres of farm and pasture land.

The hamlet of Bassano was incorporated as a village on January 2, 1910, the first village council being composed of F. Berry, H. Johnson and W. S. Playfair. Mr. Berry now lives in the Brooks district. During the summer of 1910, it was thought that the population was

BASSANO DAM . . . Quite an imposing sight



. . . with water cascading down its 24 spillways

more than the required 500 necessary to incorporate into a town and a municipal census was conducted on October 10th when the population was found to be 565. At a general ratepayer's meeting on October 24th the majority voted in favor of having Bassano incorporated into a town and an application was sent to the Department of Municipal Affairs. Bassano was accordingly incorporated into a town on January 16, 1911, and at the first municipal election of the new town, W. S. Playfair was elected as mayor and E. F. Purcell, Wallace Flanagan, F. Hawkins, Ira W. Shoop, R. H. Struthers and G. W. Gallagher were elected councillors. Of the members of this first council only Mr. Flanagan still resides in Bassano.

Water, sewer and electric lights were installed in 1913, the first school (a 6-room brick building) was constructed in 1912 and the first hospital in 1914. The original town hall was built in 1911 and was in continuous use until 1959, when a new town hall was constructed. A new 10 room school was constructed in 1956 and a new municipal hospital in 1958.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

The main point of interest in the area is the Bassano Dam with its network of canals. The dam is 3 miles south of the town and when viewed from the down stream side, it's quite an imposing sight with water cascading down its 24 spillways.

Also of interest is a cairn situated 14 miles west of Bassano commemorating the site of the signing of Treaty No. 7 between the Hon. David Laird, Lieutenant Governor of the North West Territories, and Chief Crowfoot of the Blackfoot Indian tribe in 1877.

Bassano might be called a Sportsman's Paradise. In the Spring and Summer months good fishing and boating are available on the Bow River. Every Fall the shooting of migratory and upland birds is excellent. Ducks Unlimited have several projects in this area which enhances the duck and goose hunting, while the irrigated parts of the district provides the best pheasant hunting in Canada.

Every July 1st the Bassano Board of Trade stages its Annual Rodeo and Stampede. This event is attended by cowboys from all over Southern and Central Alberta, who use this Rodeo as a practice match for the Calgary Stampede which follows about one week later.

Curling is the main pastime during the winter months. The local curling rink has three sheets of artificial ice.

The slogan of the Town is "Best in the West by a Dam Site".
o Hugh Pearce, Secretary-Treasurer

THE CHANGING SCENE

The following changes in municipal officials have been noted within recent weeks and should be of interest in keeping municipal lists reasonably current:

COUNTY OF STURGEON No. 15

Chairman S. M. Walker, Calahoo
Secretary-Treasurer J. O. Patry, 12634-Ft. Rd., Edmonton

COUNTY OF WHEATLAND No. 16

Chairman T. Chamberlain Jr., Strathmore
Secretary-Treasurer H. C. Willson

COUNTY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW No. 17

Chairman W. J. Bagnall, Dog Pound
Secretary-Treasurer J. Riddoch, Didsbury

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF FLAGSTAFF No. 62

Secretary-Treasurer C. B. Robertson, Sedgewick

TOWN OF NANTON

Secretary-Treasurer E. P. Benoit

VILLAGE OF COUTTS

Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. G. Robinson

VILLAGE OF FORESTBURG

Secretary-Treasurer C. T. Farvolden

VILLAGE OF GLENWOOD

Mayor T. Burke
Secretary-Treasurer H. Shipley

VILLAGE OF HEISLER

Mayor D. P. Kroetsch
Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. D. E. McDonald

VILLAGE OF HILL SPRING

Mayor J. Merrill
Secretary-Treasurer K. L. Tolman

VILLAGE OF HOLDEN

Secretary-Treasurer R. C. Hovland

VILLAGE OF MANNVILLE

Secretary-Treasurer G. Pemberton

VILLAGE OF OYEN

Secretary-Treasurer J. B. Lijdsman

VILLAGE OF SLAVE LAKE

Mayor B. L. Boisvert
Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. S. Rochon

VILLAGE OF WEMBLEY

Secretary-Treasurer M. W. Ouimet

TOWN OF MAYERTHORPE

Mayerthorpe moved up from village status on March 20 to become Alberta's 89th town. The number of villages in the Province was correspondingly reduced from 161 to the present 160. New status for Mayerthorpe follows a request approved at the annual meeting held in February. Mayerthorpe is 85 miles north west of Edmonton.

POPULATION FIGURES

Canada's population passed the 18,000,000 mark last November, according to a recent report from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. On January 1, 1960, the total figure was estimated to be 18,041,000 ... a gain of 363,000 for the year.

Estimates by provinces for the past two years, together with the percentage increases, are:

Nfld.	..... 454,000	..... 466,000	..... 2.64
P.E.I.	..... 103,000	..... 105,000	..... 1.94
N.S.	..... 719,000	..... 728,000	..... 1.2
N.B.	..... 596,000	..... 606,000	..... 1.67
Que.	..... 5,070,000	..... 5,176,000	..... 2.09
Ont.	..... 6,040,000	..... 6,167,000	..... 2.10
Man.	..... 894,000	..... 908,000	..... 1.57
Sask.	..... 906,000	..... 912,000	..... .67
Alta.	..... 1,268,000	..... 1,309,000	..... 3.23
B.C.	..... 1,604,000	..... 1,628,000	..... 1.49